

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
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R 192113Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9279

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PBOR, ECIN, CI, BL, PE
SUBJECT: STUMPING IN THE NORTH AND THE TRAINATIONAL INDUSTRIAL
COMPLEX

REF: STATE 125708

1. PRESIDENT PINOCHET, FOLLOWING HIS PATTERN OF GETTING ABOUT THE COUNTRY, VISITED THE GENERALLY DEPRESSED NORTHERN REGIONS OF CHILE IN EARLY MAY. ADDRESSING SUPPORTERS AT ARICA THE EVENING OF MAY 8, PINOCHET SAID THAT THE GOC "WAS FAVORABLY DISPOSED" TO THE IDEA OF CREATING AN INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX ALONG THE PERUVIAN/CHILEAN FRONTIER IN WHICH PERU AND BOLIVIA WOULD PARTICIPATE. HE STRESSED THAT ODEPLAN (THE NATIONAL PLANNING AGENCY) WAS JUST BEGINNING INITIAL STUDIES OF THE POSSIBILITY AND WOULD EVENTUALLY PRODUCE A PLAN FOR CONSIDERATION BY THE THREE GOVERNMENTS.

2. THE STORY WAS SOMETHING OF A ONE-DAY WONDER IN SANTIAGO. THE PRESS PRINTED WIRESERVICE REPORTS FROM LA PAZ ON THE BOLIVIANS' RATHER NEGATIVE REACTION AS EXPRESSED BY FOREIGN MINISTER ADRIAZOLA. REPORTERS DREW OUT PERUVIAN AMBASSADOR ARBULU ON THE SUBJECT AFTER HE PRESENTED
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CREDENTIALS MAY 11. THE NEW AMBASSADOR ALLOWED AS HOW PINOCHET'S STATEMENT WAS "A POSITIVE INITIATIVE" ADDING "IN PRINCIPLE IT SEEMS TO BE A VERY POSITIVE IDEA, ONE THAT OUGHT TO PROSPER".

3. THE ONLY EDITORIAL OPINION APPEARED IN INDEPENDENT "LA TERCERA" WHICH APPLAUDED PINOCHET'S ANNOUNCEMENT AS

EVIDENCE OF CHILE'S WILLINGNESS TO RESOLVE ITS FRONTIER PROBLEMS THROUGH SUB-REGIONAL INTEGRATION. IT DEPOLORED ADRIAZOLA'S REMARKS WHICH IT DESCRIBED AS A PERSONAL EXPRESSION CASTING ASPERSIONS ON CHILE'S MOTIVES.

4. COMMENT: WE TOUCHED BASED WITH ODEPLAN AND FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIALS. AS FAR AS THEY WERE CONCERNED, ANY PLANS FOR A TRINATIONAL INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX ARE IN THE PRE-PRE-FEASIBILITY STAGE. THEY WERE SURPRISED AT THE PRESIDENT'S ANNOUNCEMENT. WE HAVE LITTLE REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE GOC INTENDS TO MOVE AHEAD VIGOROUSLY ON THE PROJECT ALTHOUGH THE FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL OFFERED THE OBSERVATION THAT MINISTER CUBILLOS WOULD CERTAINLY RAISE THE SUBJECT DURING HIS MID-JUNE VISIT TO LIMA. SINCE WE KNOW THAT ODEPLAN HAS NOW SET SOME STAFFERS TO WORK ON THE PROJECT, HE WILL PROBABLY HAVE AT LEAST A PRELIMINARY OUTLINE IN HIS POCKET.

5. THE DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THE DISAPPOINTING 1976 STUDY WHICH WAS OBTAINED AFTER BANZER AND VENEZUELA'S PEREZ MET LAST YEAR (SEE ARA/AND FULLER MEMO OF 9/5/77). WHETHER SUCH A PROJECT MAKES ECONOMIC, LET ALONE POLITICAL, SENSE REMAINS TO BE DEMONSTRATED.

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